Telecommunication services in Himachal Pradesh

788. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that telecommunication services in the Kotkhai region of Himachal Pradesh have been in a bad shape;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is undue delay in attending to faults in the instruments; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action is being taken by Government to improve the service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No Sir, the telecommunication services in the region are by and large satisfactory.

(b) There is some delay in attending to the faults in areas served by over-head open-wire transmission, due to the difficult terrain and adverse weather conditions.

(c) Under the modernisation programme, all exchanges of the region except those of Bokhol and Padara have been converted into electronic systems; Bakhol and Padara exchanges are also planned to be replaced by electronic exchanges in the near future. Besides it is planned to provide a satellite link between Kotkhai and Shimla, in place of the existing open-wire transmission, to provide a more reliable transmission media.

Number of telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu

789. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Tamil Nadu alongwith the location thereof;

(b) since when these exchanges are functioning;

(c) how many of these exchanges are electronic;

(d) whether Government propose to convert the remaining telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges during the current year; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Total No. of Exchanges-1272. The district-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) A new exchange is opened when there is a minimum registered demand in an area. This exchange is then progressively expanded as and when the demand for telephone connections increase subject to the availability of equipment. The exchanges are also replaced by new type of exchanges with change in technology. Thus, these exchanges have been working from various dates.

(c) Number of Electronic Exchanges-313.

(d) and (e) 143 Exchanges are proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges during the year 1991-92. The remaining are proposed to be converted progressively.